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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR MALTA

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The fourth country programme for Malta was elaborated by the Office of the Prime Minister in close consultation with the UNDP European Office. As the Government wishes that a major portion of its modest IPF (53 per cent of fourth programme resources) be utilized for the continuation of ongoing projects, the justification for the new programme remains basically the same as for the preceding one approved by the Council at its special meeting in May 1982.

2. Since the Government had already decided the concentration of the small UNDP resources when the amount of Malta's IPF became known, it was felt that the submission of a Resident Representative's note would be neither necessary nor appropriate. The European Office was in agreement with the Government about the best utilization of UNDP resources, and the views of the United Nations system organizations were elicited by circulating among them the draft country programme document.

*The notes by the Administrator concerning previous country programmes for Malta are contained in documents DP/GC/MAT/R.1/RECOMMENDATION and DP/GC/MAT/R.2/RECOMMENDATION.

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II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

3. To attain its development goals as enunciated in the sixth development plan (duration of either three or five years, to be decided), the Government places continued emphasis on developing Malta into a leading trans-shipment centre in the Mediterranean. This is only natural given the country's situation as a small island economy with meager resources. The major vehicle for development of necessity lies in earnings from the use of facilities in the island to expand trade. For this reason and in order to see to a successful conclusion the ambitious and costly programmes initiated with UNDP support in previous years, there is justification that considerable funds be channelled to ongoing projects in the fourth cycle. In fact, the continuation of the container and grain terminal projects to the fourth cycle takes up over forty per cent of the resources of the fourth programme.

4. The remainder of the programme closely relates to the prime development objective of providing training to Maltese nationals. The importance of the availability of qualified manpower in the development process being self-evident, the emphasis in the new programme on the provision of specialized training in a variety of fields is commendable.

5. The fact that the Government of Malta has opted for an unprogrammed reserve of 20 per cent of the IPF should not be interpreted as an inability to programme even the small UNDP resources that are available for the fourth programme. On the contrary, the small size of the programme also means that the absolute amount of unprogrammed reserves is small, and to be meaningful, the Government requested to maintain the 20 per cent level, which represents only $275,000. Third programme experience has shown that this amount would provide the appropriate degree of flexibility. Moreover, if the Government's sixth development plan should be in effect for three rather than five years, a shift in priorities may occur during the latter part of the fourth cycle.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

6. Despite the fact that the country programme is small, reviews of the country programme will be conducted on an annual basis. As there are only five projects in the fourth country programme, tripartite reviews will also be held annually as they constitute an effective monitoring technique in the absence of a local field office. Internal and in-depth evaluations will also be conducted on a selective basis.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

7. The Administrator endorses the orientation of the fourth country programme for Malta and recommends that the programme be approved by the Governing Council.

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